

THE SUBURBAN CITIZEN

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A UNITED EFFORT.

The East End Suburban Citizens' Association Awake to Its Duties.

A Short History of the Organization Together With Work It Has Mapped Out and Sketches of Some of Its Most Prominent and Substantial Members.

The suggestion which led to a union of effort in the interest of the residents of the extreme northeast section of the District was a most excellent one, and the East End Suburban Citizens' Association, which sprang into existence a month or so ago gives promise of exceeding in its good work the fondest anticipations of its founders. It is certain that nowhere within the territory embraced by the lines of this important of all national reservations has Congressional indifference with respect to the needs of the people been more manifest, and it is equally apparent that in no part of the District could reasonable appropriations have been used to better purpose.

The area within which the work of the new association will be carried on is bounded by the Benning road and the District line and the Bladensburg pike and the Anacostia river, a territory comprising a little more than twelve hundred and ninety-nine acres, assessed at about \$278,000. In view of the fact that there are no public highways in this large suburban section, except those given by Robert E. Morris, the Corcoran estate and John W. Ross, the valuation of the property may be taken as flattering evidence that the authorities regard the locality as one which is destined to become as a comparatively early day one of the most desirable and prosperous within the limits of the District.

The most important of all the questions which the new association will be called upon to consider—which, in fact, it has already taken up is that of street improvements. In the vicinity over which the association exercises jurisdiction scores of residents are cut off from communication with the city except by means of narrow lanes, the property of individuals, which lead by circuitous routes to the Bladensburg and Benning roads. It is only by means of these winding and narrow outlets that they are able to reach the local markets with their products. Thus it will be seen they are placed at a decided disadvantage with people engaged in the same pursuits who reside in portions of the District which have been the recipients of Congressional favors.

It is possible that the seeming lack of attention which has been given to the section may be accounted for on the ground that no well-directed and united effort has been made to secure appropriations for highways and other improvements so much needed. But now that an organization, of which many of the most prominent citizens of the city and District are members, has been formed, it may be expected that ere the flight of another year Congressional vision will be turned toward the East End and that the extensive territory over which the association proposes to keep a close watch will begin to undergo many important changes. The opening of Twenty-eighth street, which is among the most desirable of the improvements thus far considered, should, and doubtless will, be the first step in the new order of things which the East End Suburban Citizens' Association has it in its power to inaugurate. This would afford an easy means of ingress and egress to the large farming community, within which there are several establishments for the production and preparation of fresh meat for the local markets, and would obviate the necessity of traversing the private lanes above referred to in order to reach the roads by which access to the city is possible.

That harmonious action upon the part of the association will result in a work of development within the territory to which it has addressed its attention, which will surmount the most sanguine advocates of progress and improvement, is a proposition which, among men who appreciate the possibilities of this much-neglected but highly favored section will be accepted without argument. The reputation and standing of men whose names appear upon the roll of the organization, however, is sufficient guarantee that there will be a shoulder-to-shoulder pull and that the East End will soon be one of the most attractive and desirable suburban sections in the District of Columbia.

The extension of Maryland avenue and the opening of M street and K or

S streets, besides the matter of securing a public park for the section, are questions that call for united and determined effort.

POOR PARK FACILITIES IN NORTHEAST WASHINGTON.

A Subject of Vital Importance to Everyone Having the Welfare of Section at Heart.

Among the many attractions of the National Capital which have made it the most famous city of the Union are its numerous parks, sometimes called breathing places. Strangers visiting Washington, no matter from what section of the country they come, are loud in their praise of the charming reservations set apart by the Government for the benefit of the people as well as for the purpose of adding to the beauty of the great political metropolis. And what a blessing they are during the warm summer months, when, but for their friendly shade, their bubbling fountains and their wealth of many-colored flowers, multitudes would be compelled to swelter in their homes, like the thousands of scores of less favored cities. It is a fact which cannot be successfully disputed that the parks of Washington have been the means of saving hundreds of lives. To the poor who cannot lock their doors and seek relief in the country or pay the meagre fare required for a trip down the famous old Potomac, the parks are a boon of inestimable value. There they may go with their little ones, sick and weary with the fever-breeding heat of the day, and find comfort and rest upon which no price has been fixed. It is creditable to the Government that it has made such provision for the pleasure of the people. And it is a good thing that among our national lawmakers there is a strong feeling of pride in this matchless American city and a desire to make it the most beautiful capital of the world.

Charming as the city is, however, there is still abundant room for improvement. It is to be regretted that the sections have not been dealt with upon equal terms. The northwest, for example, has been favored by the expenditure of thousands of dollars in the matter of park improvements, while the northeast, naturally a more attractive section of the city, is able to point to but one park—that lying between Fourth and Sixth streets and C and D, and known as Stanton Park. It is here that the monument to General Greene stands. This is the only breathing place in the northeast portion of the city, if the half of Lincoln Park lying in that quarter be excepted. It is a delightful place, but on account of its size and the fact that it is the only park in the northeast is wholly inadequate to the wants of the people.

In view of these facts there should be another park, and it should be so located as to afford comfort to the largest number of men, women and babies—especially the latter, who are the greatest sufferers from the heated spells which annually visit Washington, and scores of whom die because they are deprived of the out-of-door comforts provided by Congress for their cooling contemporaries in other parts of the city. Public attention has several times been called to the necessity for additional park improvements in the northeast, and a year or so ago Congress was asked to take the matter in hand, but failed to do it. Hence, thousands of people who live between Twelfth and Fifteenth streets have this year been deprived of privileges to which they are clearly entitled.

There seems to be but one place in which a new park could be opened in the northeast section so as to afford the comfort required by the people and at the same time add to the beauty of a much-neglected portion of the capital. On the fine piece of ground which was once known as Graceland Cemetery a splendid park could be opened at small expense. But little, if any, grading would be required to make this tract, or a portion of it, one of the prettiest reservations in Washington. Handsome

trees of various varieties, which stood on the ground long before it was abandoned as a cemetery, furnish abundant shade, and, fortunately, are so arranged as to make but few changes necessary. About six years ago Congress forced the cemetery company to remove the bodies buried there, and since then the tract has remained in idleness, the conditions set forth in the act being such as to prevent the company from utilizing it.

As above stated, a bill was introduced about a year ago, Senator Cockrell, of Missouri, being its patron, providing for the purchase of a portion of the cemetery tract for parking purposes. This bill simply directed the District Commissioners to institute condemnation proceedings to acquire in the neighborhood of 240,000 square feet of ground for a public reservation, including certain highways. The territory provided for is described in the bill as follows: "Beginning at the intersection of the Bladensburg road and the north line of a thirty foot strip purchased from the Graceland Cemetery Company; thence four hundred and fifty feet along the east line of the Bladensburg road; thence east five hundred and twenty-five feet; thence in a southwest direction to the said thirty foot strip to a point five hundred feet east from the beginning." Maryland avenue, if opened all the way through this reservation, would enter it at Fifteenth street and pursue a northeasterly course. The bill also provided for streets sixty feet wide on the north and east sides of the park. The location of this contemplated reservation will, perhaps, be better understood from the statement that it is bounded on the south by the Benning road, on the west by the Bladensburg road, and on the north by a highway which would probably correspond to I street, while the extension of Sixteenth street would form the eastern boundary.

No more desirable place for a park could be selected than this. The improvement would at once put an end to the complaint, which is evidently well founded, that the northeast section of the city has not been fairly treated. And it would, as above remarked, beautify this portion of the city. It can not be doubted that the opening of a park at this point would be speedily followed by a big building boom and fine residences would soon be seen far beyond the reservation. The trustees of the cemetery company, it is said, have agreed to sell the property to the Government at a reasonable price and also donate ground through the remaining portion of the tract for the opening of Maryland avenue and other streets. As the avenue runs obliquely through the tract a number of triangular strips, which could not be utilized, would be made by the opening of additional streets, so that at least 65 per cent. of the ground lying outside of the reservation would be required for highways. This, it seems to the Suburban Citizen, is a liberal offer upon the part of the cemetery company. In fact, it is an offer which should be promptly accepted, because every year's delay means that the Government will have to pay a much higher price for the property, not to mention the inconvenience to which the people are put by reason of the failure to provide for them a northeast park.

There is no risk in saying that a park at this point would accommodate as large a number of people as any in the city, and that during the hot season it would be the means of saving scores of lives. There should be some convenient out-of-door spot for the benefit of the residents of this section and there should be no delay in providing it. Here much has been done to make a pretty park, and by the expenditure of a few thousand dollars improvements could be added which would make it worth hundreds of thousands to the people, especially the poor, who, as already said, cannot leave the city for an outing at the summer resorts. It is therefore manifestly the duty of the District Commissioners to use their influence with the members of Congress to secure a sufficient appropriation to purchase this tract and transform it into a park at the earliest day possible. The next session should not be allowed to pass without such an appropriation.

The northeast section has but one park—that known as Stanton Square—but the northwest has a dozen. In the southeast there are several very pretty parks, all of which are well cared for, while the people of the southwest have the Arsenal, in itself one of the most delightful reservations in the city, and a large part of the Mall. Thus it will be seen every section has been liberally provided for except the northeast, a section which is rapidly growing in population and importance and which is destined to vie with any of its neighbors in point of beauty. Taking into consideration the rapidity of urban growth—or, rather, suburban growth—the day is not far in the future when the ground which it is now proposed to turn into a health-giving park will be surrounded by the homes of a multitude of people. It will be but one of many other parks in a territory densely built up extending to the District line and containing, besides factories and other industrial establishments, perhaps numerous public buildings and the homes of hundreds of men of wealth and in-

fluence. Hence, it is clearly the part of wisdom to provide now the ground which will be needed, and which will have to be had a few years later, for parking purposes.

The Suburban Citizen suggests that the new association organized in the northeast take the matter up and present it to the attention of the members of Congress as soon as possible after the opening of the next session. There seems to be no reason to doubt that the District Commissioners will do all they can to insure legislation favorable to the project. They appreciate the importance of such a step and have always shown a disposition to aid any enterprise which had for its object the improvement of the city and the comfort and pleasure of the people who make up its population of nearly three hundred thousand souls.

SOME OF THE MEMBERS.

As already remarked, the East End Suburban Citizens' Association is composed of the best men in the section in which it exists—men who have risen to prominence in business circles by their tact and energy in the prosecution of the pursuits to which they have devoted their best years. Prophetic foresight is not required, therefore, to foretell the outcome of any enterprise which is fortunate enough to secure in its behalf influences so potent and persistent. Hence it may be confidently said that the East End Suburban Association is sure to become a very important factor in the growth and development of those sections of the District in which the poor man, as well as the rich and well-to-do, may sit beneath the vine and fig-tree in the enjoyment of those privileges and blessings which are to be found only within the sacred precincts of a happy home. It will doubtless interest the readers of the Suburban Citizen, therefore, to know something about the men who make up this new and promising organization. As the membership is large and growing at a rapid rate it is only possible in this issue to mention a few of them.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM H. ERNEST.

Mr. Wm. H. Ernest, the president of the association, is one of the best-known and most popular business men of Washington. Not many of the thousands of people who have passed the extensive pottery establishment at Twenty-eighth and M streets, N. E., are aware of the fact that it had its beginning eighteen years ago in a small way at the foot of Fourth street. It was there, however, that Mr. Ernest began business in 1883. Nine years later the demands upon the industry had so greatly increased that it became necessary for him to secure larger quarters. Accordingly, he purchased the ground on which the factory now stands, and, as a matter of fact, on account of the rapid multiplication of orders for his wares, contemplates the acquisition of considerable adjacent property. To quote the Suburban Citizen of several months ago, from the date of his locating on Twenty-eighth street "to the present time he has turned out and sold millions and millions of pots of every size from the very smallest to the largest. A faint idea of the extent of the plant can be gained from the simple fact that for the past three years he has never had less than a million pots in stock. All sizes are carried for florists' use from the tiny two-inch size to the big fellows twenty inches in diameter." The plant is one of the best equipped in the United States, the kiln in use being unsurpassed anywhere. In addition to the enormous demand for Mr. Ernest's goods at home, large shipments are made to foreign points. An interesting feature of this part of the business is the manner in which pottery is packed for shipment. So carefully is this work done that the delivery of the most delicate articles in any part of the world is practically guaranteed. The articles manufactured are jugs, jars, milk-pans, pitchers, bean-pots, churns, stew-pans, filters, etc. The system under which the establishment is conducted is so perfect that orders can be filled at almost a moment's notice. In fact, orders received in the morning are frequently filled before two o'clock. Mr. Ernest employs a large number of men and boys, who are well paid for their labor and who are sincerely attached to the owner of this prosperous and important establishment. Besides the products of his own factory, Mr. Ernest handles the famous New Brighton sceneries, the reputation of which is world-wide.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT KANE.

Among the able official associates of President Ernest is Mr. Hugh A. Kane, who holds the position of first vice-president. Few young men in the city and District are better known. As a member of the association Mr. Kane has done much during its brief existence to induce men not yet identified with it to promise their names as additions to its roll, and in many other ways has labored industriously for the advancement of the organization in its particular field of effort. He has been for a number of years the manager for the American Rose Company, whose greenhouses, filled with floral beauty, are on the Bladensburg road. Accord-

ing to the Florists' Exchange, the establishment of the American Rose Company is in some respects the largest in the world. This is a statement worthy of careful preservation by the company, but it fails to outweigh the compliment which Mr. Kane's employers have paid him in retaining him as the manager of their enterprise for so many years. Mr. Kane is a vigorous, progressive young man and deservedly popular wherever he is known. The association made no mistake in selecting him to fill the chair of the first vice-president.

TREASURER AUG. W. STUBENER.

Mr. August W. Stubener, the treasurer of the association, is one of the solid business men of the city and District. Mr. Stubener has lived on the Bladensburg road for the past 36 years. He is the owner of one of the largest meat supplying establishments in this section. A visit to his place will convince the observer that Mr. Stubener thoroughly understands his business. A feature which impresses every one that sees the establishment, however, is the fact that every department is kept in the most perfect order. Mr. Stubener prides himself upon this, and his customers, whose name is legion, rejoice in the knowledge that what they get from him is first-class and that it has been handled in the most skillful manner possible. He has stand No. 64 in the Centre Market and stand No. 315 in the Northern Liberty Market and his meats are sold in many stores and other places. Mr. Stubener is a progressive man and has on many occasions shown in a practical way his desire for the advancement of the section in which he lives. Not long ago he expressed his willingness to donate the site for a factory in the vicinity of his home. He has been in business here about 27 years. The association could not have selected a more competent man for its treasurer. He is the right man in the right place.

NICHOLAS AUTH.

The name of Mr. Auth is familiar in every home in Washington in which a juicy beefsteak is enjoyed. Out on the Bladensburg road he has one of the best equipped places in the District, and it is said to be doubtful if its equal could be found in any of the adjacent States. His factory on Virginia avenue is well worth a visit by people who have never seen the art of meat packing carried on. Here meats of various kinds are packed and hundreds of pounds of the delicious sausages which have made Mr. Auth's name so well known in Washington and other places are manufactured. The man who holds to the hoary fiction that a large percentage of the bologna turned out by the meat packers contains objectionable material will find convincing evidence to the contrary in Mr. Auth's factory. Some time ago Mr. Auth and Mr. T. T. Keane leased the abattoir at Benning, in the northeast section of the district, for a period of five years. Here they kill their own stock, as well as hundreds of cattle for other people. The place is provided with every improvement and convenience for carrying on the business according to the most approved modern methods. Mr. Auth runs a large number of wholesale and retail wagons, besides maintaining an extensive retail trade. He has stands in every market in the city and District. Mr. Auth is one of the most enterprising members of the association and is deeply interested in the establishment of factories in the territory covered by its jurisdiction. He was the first man to offer to donate ground for that purpose.

MR. J. M. BURNS.

A man whose name is almost as well known in Washington as that of William McKinley is Mr. J. M. Burns, superintendent of Mt. Olivet Cemetery, to which position he was appointed about two years ago. This beautiful city of the dead has never had a more popular superintendent, which is saying a good deal. Mr. Burns is a gentleman of wide influence throughout the District, notwithstanding the fact that he is a man of quiet demeanor. In the work of the association he is distinguished as a wise counsellor, his opinions upon all questions being accepted as trustworthy guides to correct conclusions. Mr. Burns is chairman of the committee on streets, roads and bridges, and is also a member of the executive committee. His ability as a speaker and reasoner makes him one of the most valuable members of the association and through him many men have been induced to unite with it for the purpose of advancing the interests of the northeast section. Mr. Burns believes that the day is near at hand when that portion of the District, so long neglected, will receive consideration of a substantial nature at the hands of Congress. He regards the question of street extension as one to which the association should address itself with vigor, and believes that efforts well directed will be liberally rewarded.

CHARLES R. TALBERT.

Prominent among the workers of the association is Mr. Charles R. Talbert, who is a member of the Executive com-

mittee. Mr. Talbert is favorably known in the business circles of the city, being the proprietor of one of the busiest flour and feed stores in the northeast section, namely, at No. 1406 H street. He is said by people who profess to be informed upon the subject to be the largest retail dealer in the city. His wholesale business aggregates thousands of dollars every year. Mr. Talbert is highly esteemed in the northeast quarter and throughout the territory of the East End Association. He is a valuable member of the Executive Committee and is noted for his promptness in attending to the duties which the position imposes. Mr. Talbert is known to thousands of horsemen throughout the country, men who come to Washington during the racing season and who never fail to call upon him for the provender consumed by their animals. He deserves the esteem in which he is held and is not likely to lose it. Like other persons whose names have been mentioned, he is interested in the development of the northeast section by the establishment of factories.

A TRUSTWORTHY PROPHET.

Many prophecies have been uttered concerning the future of the National Capital, but none has been more literally fulfilled than those which came from the lips of Mr. John F. Waggaman, one of the pioneer real estate men of Washington. Mr. Waggaman was never a pessimistic prophet. The picture which he saw and ever held up to be looked upon by the doubting Thomases who thought they saw a harmless source of amusement in his hopefulness was always a bright one. It was a picture radiant with sunshine and full of beauty, the picture of a matchless city even more beautiful than the Washington upon which we look to-day. Mr. Waggaman had faith to believe that the time would come when the splendid mental vision would assume tangible shape, and accordingly he lost no opportunity to invest his money in real estate. The results of his various ventures are too well known to require more than passing reference. His investments were chiefly made in the northwest section of the city, because, being a shrewd and careful business man, he foresaw the fact that that quarter was destined to become a fine residence locality.

But Mr. Waggaman knew that the growth of the city would not by any means be confined to the northwest. He did not overlook the fact that while thousands of people with comfortable bank accounts would turn their eyes in that direction, the northeast would not be many years behind in the race for honors as a residence section. Then again he displayed his clear business foresight by getting in on the ground floor in the matter of purchasing northeast property, the "Morris addition," a tract of about sixty-five acres being one of his most important acquisitions. Mr. Waggaman believes that many handsome suburban homes will soon be built within the territory covered by the new association and that its growth will be as substantial and rapid as that of the northwest. Here, in the new picture which he is holding up for public inspection, are pretty homes stretching for miles beyond the present city limits on shaded and paved streets and broad avenues, seeming, here and there, to end in spacious parks and charming circles. This picture, like the other, will be a real one at no distant day, and Mr. Waggaman will be among the distinguished citizens of Washington who will live to see it and enjoy it.

When the new association was formed the name of Mr. Waggaman was the first to be enrolled on the list of members, and while his interests elsewhere have prevented him from attending the meetings, he has been the means of greatly aiding the organization in its work. He believes that a vigorous campaign should be inaugurated in behalf of the northeast section and that the District Commissioners should be called upon to lend their influence in calling the attention of Congress to the fact that it has not been dealt with as fairly as it should have been. There should be liberal appropriation for the opening of highways and for other improvements which are needed, and Mr. Waggaman, viewing the subject in the optimistic light in which he saw the marshy northwest blossom as the rose, is confident that the District lawmakers will look with favor upon the claims of the northeast people. There is no quarter of the District which, in his judgment, offers better opportunities for safe and profitable investment, and in this, as in all other business undertakings, he has backed his prophecy with solid cash. His large and valuable real estate interests in the northeast furnish convincing evidence that he believes that the section has a bright future.

In his book bearing the title of "The Ups and Downs of an Army Officer," Maj. George A. Ames says of Mr. Waggaman, on pages 5 and 6: "Among others I desire to mention are the three Waggaman brothers, who have done

(Continued on Fourth Page.)